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ing the ensuing crop of hemp, and vetches might make it worth the farmer's attention; to this an objection was stated, which I do not just now remember.

On talking with the gentleman before mentioned, and stating the American practice, with what had passed on it with my neighbours, he said, he had long been persuaded, that it was a good practice, and that he had the last season a very good crop of hemp, on a piece of ground that had hemp the year before, and that he did not let the hemp stand for seed, but had it all down at the usual time for drawing the summer or male hemp, and the ground immediately sown with turnips, which were fed off with sheep, and the ground then slightly manured, and hemp sown again at the proper season, and that he had then, October 27th, 1808, a piece of turnips after his hemp, which were worth £.6 per acre. It is to be observed, that the acre here meant is the British acre, of one hundred square poles, three hundred and four square yards each. The manure mostly used for hemp, is good rotten stable dung, which is much preferred to any other, though lime is frequently used; but manufacturers pretend to assert, (with what

foundation I cannot say,) that they can distinguish a material difference in the quality of hemp, where lime has been used instead of dung, as from lime, they say, hemp is more harsh and brittle, and not of such a soft silky quality, as where dung has been used.

The writer has endeavoured to throw together every thing that occurs to him on the subject of the culture of hemp, which, from being born, and residing great part of his life in a part of the county where it has been extensively cultivated for ages, he has been able to collect; but where it is not very easy to obtain direct information; as both the growers and manufacturers are very shy of giving any, under an idea that it might injure their own interest, by assisting to extend the culture to other countries. He believes that his statement may be depended upon: but he is no farmer, and therefore the loose hints thrown together here on the subject may not be so clearly and satisfactorily explained as he could wish, but if they in the smallest degree assist in encouraging the growth of an article so essential to the welfare and prosperity of the kingdom, it will afford him the most heartfelt pleasure.

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BOOKS PUBLISHED IN DUBLIN.

A Statement of the Penal Laws which aggrieve the Catholics of Ireland; with commentaries, part 3d.

Substance of Two Speeches delivered in the General Synod of Ulster, at its annual meeting in 1812; by the Rev. Robert Black, D.D., senior Presbyterian minister of Londonderry: with an abstract of the proceedings of the Synod relative to the Rev. Dr. Dickson.

Dublin: printed by Stewart and Hopes, King's-Inns-quay, price 1s. 3d.—The profits arising from the sale will be appropriated to the fund for the benefit of the widows and orphan-families of the ministers of the Synod.

BELFAST MAG. NO. LII.

WE promised, that when this long expected publication made its appearance, we should again call public attention to the subjects at issue, between the Synod of Ulster and Dr. Dickson, as conceiving the Pre-byterian body, and the public at large, were interested in the question.

Strong contradictions exist between the Narrative and the present statement, of which we confess our incapacity to decide, for want of a sufficient knowledge of the facts, and besides it is not our wish to make ourselves parties in the cause, but merely to assist in bringing it fully before the tribunal of the public. We have been informed, that Dr. Dickson is preparing an answer to Dr. Black's statement, which is speedily to appear, and until this rejoinder shall be seen, it may be only consistent with justice to suspend a decided judgment. On that part of the subject, one observation, in the mean time, may suffice. Dr. Black repeatedly charges Dr. Dickson with mis-stating facts. It was incumbent on him, in giving quotations, to have been himself accurate. Now at page 56, Dr. Dickson is stated to have represented, in a speech at a Catholic meeting at Armagh, that "the present war with France is a *curst war of aggression*." Without stopping to inquire, whether these expressions, even if they had been used, might not have been justified by a sober, dispassionate review of the subject, although not perhaps to the satisfaction of an AGENT OF GOVERNMENT, who, being in pay, must support their measures as well as he can, and who receives a large salary under them, as a dispenser of their *Regium Donum*; it may be sufficient to state, that, without a forced construction, the Doctor's expressions do not strictly bear that import. His words in the printed copy of the speech are, "How many, whose ancestors our accursed penal code had expelled from their country, and who long have been, and now are, leading our enemies to victory, would return in rapture to her bosom, and fight in her cause? Irish legions, fighting under foreign banners, and commanded by Irishmen, would no more be heard of. Even in our accursed wars of offence, this would add to the probability of our success. But should we ever be reduced to a war of defence, within the boundaries of our own isles, which God forbid! this, and this alone, in the ordinary course of things, would insure our safety, and enable us to bid defiance

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